**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1-19, without prejudice, and add new claims 34 and 35 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule, comprising a nucleic acid ~~coding for~~encoding a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity or a complementary strand thereof, wherein the nucleic acid is selected from

(a) a nucleic acid ~~with~~ having the DNA sequence ~~stated~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or the RNA sequence corresponding thereto;

(b) a nucleic acid which hybridises with the complementary strand of a nucleic acid according to (a);

(c) a nucleic acid which on the basis of the genetic code is degenerate to the DNA sequences defined in (a) and (b);

(d) a nucleic acid which hybridises with one of the nucleic acids stated in (a) to (c) and the complementary strand whereof codes for a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity;

(e) a nucleic acid ~~which is at least 60% homologous to~~ comprising the nucleic acid stated in (a);

(f) ~~a variant of the nucleic acids stated in (a) to (e), wherein the variant has additions, deletions, insertions or inversions relative to the nucleic acids stated in (a) to (e);~~

~~(g) a fragment of one of the nucleic acids stated in (a) to (f);~~

~~(h) a combination of several of the nucleic acids stated in (a) to (g)~~ a nucleic acid comprising at least two of the nucleic acids set forth in (a) to (e),

wherein the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid or complementary strand thereof has at least 10% of the chorismate mutase activity of the chorismate mutase according to SEQ ID NO:2, with the proviso that the nucleic acid molecule does not include the nucleic acid sequence of the ARO7 gene from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae.*

2. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it~~wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a desoxyribo-nucleic acid molecule.

3. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the hybridisation stated under (b) or (d) is performed under stringent conditions.

4. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the nucleic acid stated under (e) is a least 80% homologous to one of the nucleic acids stated under (a).

5. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the nucleic acid stated under (e) is at least 90% homologous to one of the nucleic acids stated under (a).

6. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the nucleic acid stated under (e) is at least 95% homologous to one of the nucleic acids stated under (a).

7. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid has at least 50% of the chorismate mutase activity of the chorismate mutase according to SEQ ID NO:2.

8. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid has at least 75% of the chorismate mutase activity of the chorismate mutase according to SEQ ID NO:2.

9. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 1, further comprising a promoter suitable to control ~~for~~ expression of the polypeptide encoded by said isolated nucleic acid ~~control~~, wherein the nucleic acid coding for a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity is under the control of the promoter.

10. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 9, characterised in that the promoter is the MOX promoter or the FMD promoter from *Hansenula polymorpha*.

11. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 9, further comprising a heterologous nucleic acid sequence suitable ~~for~~ to direct expression and optionally secretion of the polypeptide encoded by said isolated nucleic acid.

12. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 9, wherein the nucleic acid molecule contains at least a part of a vector, further wherein the vector is selected from: bacteriophages, plasmids, adenoviruses, vaccinia viruses, baculoviruses, SV40 virus and retroviruses.

13. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic ~~Nucleic~~ acid molecule according to Claim 9, wherein the nucleic acid further comprises a His-tag coding nucleic acid sequence and the expression of the nucleic acid molecule leads to the formation of a fusion protein with a His-tag.

14. (currently amended) ~~Non-naturally occurring~~ A recombinant host cell, ~~containing~~ ~~a~~ comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 9, wherein the host

cell is a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell suitable for the expression of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule.

15. (currently amended) The hostHost cell according to Claim 14, characterised in that wherein the prokaryotic cell is selected from the group consisting of an *E. coli* cell and a *Bacillus subtilis* cell.

16. (currently amended) Non-naturally occurring The recombinant host cell according to Claim 14, characterised in thatwherein the eukaryotic cell is selected from the group consisting of a yeast cellcells, such as *Hansenula polymorpha* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, an insect cell,cells and a mammalian cellcells, preferably from CHO cells, COS cells and HeLa cells.

17. (currently amended) A processProcess for the production of a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity, wherein the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 is expressed in a suitable host cell suitable for the expression of a polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule and the protein is isolated if necessary.

18. (currently amended) The processProcess according to Claim 17, characterised in thatwherein the polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity produced is naturally or chemically modified or is post-translationally modified within said host cell.

19. (currently amended) A process for the production of a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity, wherein said polypeptide is expressed Process according to Claim 17, characterised in that the expression is performed in a host cell according to Claim 14.

20-33. (withdrawn)

34. (new) The non-naturally occurring host cell of claim 16, wherein the yeast cell is selected from the group consisting of a *Hansenula polymorpha* cell and a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cell.

35. (new) The non-naturally occurring host cell of claim 16, wherein the mammalian cell is selected from the group consisting of a CHO cell, a COS cell and a HeLa cell.